

~~H. D. May~~

Yaphank, L. I.,

July 13, 1887.

Dear May,

I am very much obliged to you for giving me an opportunity to see my Commonwealth letter of 1881 in reply to A. H. Waters. I suppose I have a copy of it somewhere, at present out of reach. Waters's attack was wholly unprovoked and foolish, and though Slack gave him compassionately the last word, he was wholly unable to meet the points I made or to retreat with honor from the controversy. ~~With~~ ~~me~~ I never

had any acquaintance with him, but have no doubt your description of him is accurate. I must believe there are not many of his class of opponents to Garrison now living. Thayer is the only one known to me. As you intimate he will furnish welcome ammunition to Leonard Woolsey Bacon, from whom a broadside may be expected in the Life of his father, which he is understood to have in preparation. If I am still alive when that work appears, I may find another job on my hands.

I have a letter from Mrs. Villard to-day, in which

she speaks of my ^{to Thayer} reply in the
generous and appreciative
terms, corresponding well with
the sentence you quote from ^{her}
Best of all, however, is the
calm judgment of Wendell
as expressed in the letter I
enclose. Knowing how im-
possible it is for him to utter
an unfelt word in the way
of compliment, his words
give me very great pleasure.

No, I have not read Tol-
stois "My Religion," but mean
to do so ere long. He must
be a wonderful man.

I am sorry to be un-
able to give you William
Still's address, or that of N.
R. Johnston.

Both Mrs. Johnson and

our Helen desire to be re-
membered to you and
Mrs. May.

Yours, affectionately,

Oliver Johnson